

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
EXHIBIT NO. 3  
DATE 4-10-07  
BILL NO. HB 49

Amendments to House Bill No. 49  
3rd Reading Copy

Requested by Representative Robin Hamilton

For the Senate Local Government Committee

Prepared by Sue O'Connell  
April 3, 2007 (11:03am)

1. Page 3, line 3.

**Following:** "\$20,000"

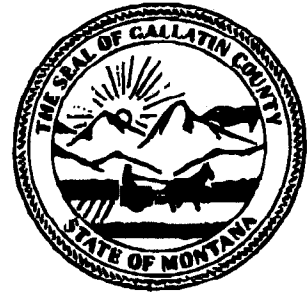
**Insert:** "for the biennium beginning July 1, 2007,"

- END -

State of Montana

*County of Gallatin*

Bozeman

**HB 49**

To have a Clerk and Recorder on this interim committee is great. These special districts greatly impact the Clerk & Recorder's office. Each step of the process, from receiving petitions for creating the district to receiving protest letters to conducting elections for funding and elections of trustees/directors to establishing the RID's for taxing purposes, effects all the Clerk & Recorders in the state.

From an Election Administrator's standpoint, there is so much confusion with special district elections especially when two different types of special district elections are being conducted at the same time. Gallatin County had this very thing happen on December 5, 2006. We had 3 special district elections on the same day; two were fire districts and one was a water and sewer district.

The staff in the election office has a difficult time trying to remember which rules apply to each election. When the office is busy, this is a big problem. Here is an example of confusion. The landowner that votes in a fire district election has different requirements from the landowner that votes in the water and sewer district. Not only is it confusing for the staff, but also for the voters themselves. The same landowner that votes in one election has a hard time understanding why the rules have changed when he/she comes back to vote in the next election.

With the procedures for elections changing at the federal as well as state levels, each election is usually different for the same type special district the following election year. It would really help to at least have the rules governing the requirements for creation, funding, right of protest, voters, and operation be consistent from one special district to the next so that one layer of confusion could be removed.

**HB49 is good news and is a bill that is long overdue.**

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlotte Mills".

Charlotte Mills  
Clerk & Recorder/Election Administrator  
Gallatin County  
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